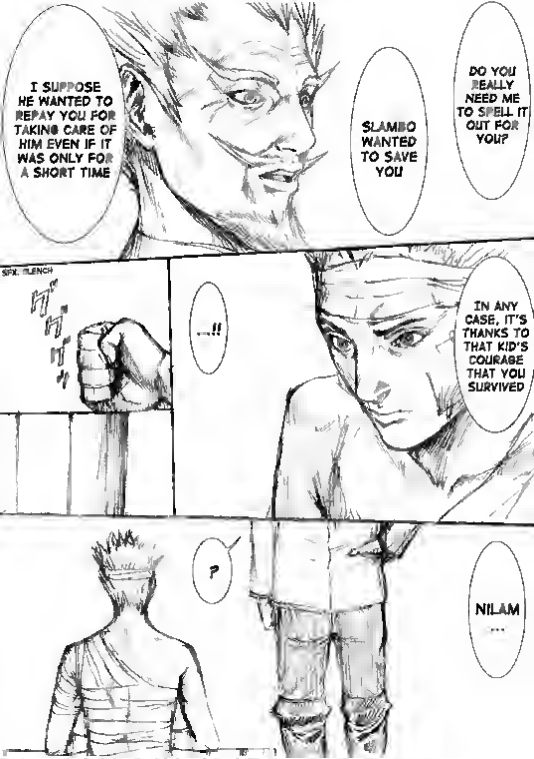
Volume 2
Chapter 18

LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK QUITE A BEATING THERE
MONSTERS IN THIS AREA ARE USUALLY LOW-LEVEL, BUT CAN BE A THREAT IF THEY COME IN HORDES
PLUS, LATELY EVEN BIG ONES LIKE THAT LAST ONE HAVE STARTED TO SHOW UP...
KEEP IT IN MIND NEXT TIME...
ARE YOU OKAY?
MEEP MEEP
I.
NILAM... THANKS FOR SAVING ME...

MY INTENTION WASN'T TO SAVE YOU
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA
IT WAS TO SAVE MY CUTE LITTLE SLAMBO HERE
COME WE'LL GET YOU FIXED UP TOO.
BUT

Y-YES, SIR!!
IT'S AN ORDER!!
AS SOON AS WE GOT TO NILAM'S PLACE, MISS BUNNY TREATED SLAMBO'S AND MY WOUNDS
OKAY, IT'S DONE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
UMM... WHAT'S INSIDE THE BUCKET...?
SFX: BLUB BLUB

IT'S HOLY WATER FILLED WITH FINELY GROUND MEDICAL HERBS
WHEN HEALING A SLIME WITH A MEDICAL HERB, IT'S MORE EFFECTIVE TO APPLY IT INDIRECTLY LIKE THIS
YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER IT
...
WE WERE TAKING A WALK WHEN SLAMBO SUDDENLY TOOK OFF
WE LOOKED ALL OVER UNTIL WE FOUND YOU FIGHTING OFF BABY NEWTS TO PROTECT HIM—
IT WAS A CLOSE CALL
I DON'T GET WHY SLAMBO DID THAT


I SUPPOSE HE WANTED TO REPAY YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME
SLAMBO WANTED TO SAVE YOU
DO YOU REALLY NEED ME TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?
SFX: FLINCH
...!!
IN ANY CASE, IT'S THANKS TO THAT KID'S COURAGE THAT YOU SURVIVED
P
NILAM
...

WHAT DO YOU WANT —?
SFX THUD
PLEASE LET ME WORK HERE ONE MORE TIME!!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S JUST CHORES, I'LL DO ANYTHING! PLEASE!!
I BEG YOU!!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I BEGGED ON ALL FOURS
ALL RIGHT RAISE YOUR HEAD
!!
WELL,, I'M NOT HEARTLESS EITHER I CAN'T SAY NO IF YOU BEG LIKE THAT...
NILAM!!
BUT THERE WILL BE NO NEXT TIME!!
DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT

YOU HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE DID
ISN'T IT SLAMBO'S FAVORITE FOOD?
?
ALSO, GO BUY SOME APPLES!
Y-YES, SIR!!
TO BE HONEST, I STILL DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT NILAM TRULY MEANT WHEN HE SAID "TREAT THEM WITH LOVE"
FROM THE NEXT DAY ON, I WAS BACK TO TAKING CARE OF NILAM'S MONSTERS
MY DAILY DUTIES HADN'T CHANGED MUCH THOUGH
WHAT HAD CHANGED WAS MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE JOB
THEREFORE, I FIGURED I'D SIMPLY TRY TO BE HONEST, EVEN TO A FAULT, AS I KEEP PRESSING ON STEP BY STEP.
EVEN IF I FEEL LIKE I'M TREATING THEM WITH LOVE, I CAN'T REALLY TELL IF MY ACTIONS CONVEY IT
EVEN IF MY INTENTIONS ARE GOOD, I MAY BE ACTUALLY JUST CAUSING THEM TROUBLE INSTEAD.

SIGH
SFX: SSSSHHHHH
IT'S BEEN ABOUT THREE WEEKS SINCE I STARTED WORKING FOR NILAM AGAIN.
THE FISH AREN'T BITING AT ALL
I'VE FOUND OUT A LOT ABOUT THE MONSTERS LATELY.
SFX: CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
SOLEM IS ACTUALLY TIMID, KIND AND HATES VIOLENCE
HE SEEMS TO HATE WATER TOO.
DORAKICHI IS LIKE A CHILD AND IS ALWAYS BOUNCING AROUND
ALSO, HE LIKES TO PUT EVERY-THING IN HIS MOUTH
PANTHER IS SMART BUT VERY LAID-BACK AND DOES EVERYTHING AT HIS OWN PACE

HE'S ALSO A DAMN GOOD FISHER-MAN... WWWW
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S 'CAUSE AMOUR HAS FOUR ARMS AND FOUR LEGS, BUT HE'S QUITE NIMBLE AND HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER THE OTHERS
BUT I FEEL LIKE THEY'VE ALL COME TO ACCEPT ME A LITTLE MORE
OHH!! WELL DONE PANTHER!
MAYBE IT'S THANKS TO MY NEWLY ACQUIRED SINCERITY TOWARDS THEM—
GROWL!
AMOUR, PANTHER, COULD YOU TWO PLEASE BRING THEM ALL TO THE KITCHEN?
WOW, SO MANY!! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE HAVING A FISH PARTY TODAY!!

!?
SFX WOBBLE WOBBLE
BUT NOT SLAMBO
THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM COMPARED TO THE OTHERS
IT WOULD BE EASY TO LAY ALL THE BLAME ON SLAMBO AND SAY IT'S 'CAUSE HE'S A COWARD, BUT...
FOR ALL I KNOW, THERE MIGHT BE A DIFFERENT REASON FOR WHY I CAN'T SEEM TO BET HIM TO OPEN UP TO ME...

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

I TRIED ASKING NILAM ABOUT SLAMBO WHEN WE WENT TO TOWN TO STOCK UP ON STUFF.
FOR SOME REASON, HE SMILED AS IF HE WAS GLAD I ASKED HIM.
YOU FINALLY NOTICED, HUH...
...IS WHAT HE SAID AFTER THAT.
...LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY...
AS SOON AS NILAM STARTED TALKING ABOUT SLAMBO, HIS FACE TURNED STERN AGAIN.
IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

BUT UNLIKE CATS AND DOGS, SLAMBO IS A MONSTER
SOME RICH MAN WAS KEEPING SLAMBO AS HIS PET...
CONSTANTLY TREATED LIKE AN EXHIBIT, SLAMBO WAS LIVING OUT HIS DAYS IN SUFFERING...
INSTEAD OF PLAYING WITH HIM LIKE YOU WOULD WITH A PET, HE MADE HIM BATTLE OTHER MONSTERS IN THE MONSTER ARENA

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH
YEAH ...
SO YOU HELPED HIM?
I MARCHED RIGHT INTO THE MAN'S MANSION
TOOK SLAM60, AND
CHEWED THE MAN OUT WHILE I WAS AT IT

NOTE TO SELF: NIJAM CAN GET REALLY SCARY IF YOU PISS HIM OFF ...
WHEN HE HAD THE NERVE TO TALK BACK AT ME, I SNAPPED, CAST BEDRAGON AND FRIED HIS SORRY ASS
IT WAS PRICE-LESS
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPEN-ED...
AND THAT'S HOW I MET SLAMBO. EVER SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH ME
IT'S DEPRES-SING REALLY
IT'S SAD, BUT IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
THERE ARE TOO MANY FOOLS IN THIS WORLD WHO DON'T KNOW THE VALUE OF LIFE

AFTER HEARING ABOUT WHAT SLAMBO HAD TO GO THROUGH,
I GOT SAD AND COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL BAD FOR HIM
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE HUMANS AND THEY'RE MONSTERS
DOESN'T GIVE US THE RIGHT TO HURT THEM, DOES IT?
...
GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ALL KINDS OF STUFF
NO, IT'S JUST THE STORY YOU TOLD ME...
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY THE LONG FACE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? CAN YOU HEAL THAT POOR KID'S SCARS?
SLAMBO WAS HURT DEEPLY!
HIS PHYSICAL WOUNDS MAY HAVE HEALED UP, BUT THE EMOTIONAL SCARS REMAIN
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
I'LL TRY!!
BESIDES, HE HAS SAVED MY LIFE ONCE ALREADY.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN FATE THAT BROUGHT SLAMBO AND ME TOGETHER.
...I SEE!
THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING WRONG WITH WANTING TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE PERSON WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE

I'M ALLOWED TO GET CLOSER TO SLAMBO THAN BEFORE, BUT WHENEVER I TRIED TO PAT HIS HEAD OR EVEN TOUCH HIM, HE'D TRY TO RUN AWAY. IT PROBABLY MAKES HIM REMEMBER BAD THINGS FROM THE PAST.
THE NEXT DAY, I GOT NILAM'S PERMISSION TO FOCUS ON TAKING CARE OF SLAMBO FOR THE TIME BEING.
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY, I'D TRY NOT TO GET MAD AT HIM AND REPEAT IT IN A FRIENDLY WAY...
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN FEEDING HIM, I'D QUIETLY WAIT UNTIL HE FINISHES EATING
WHEN GOING FOR A WALK, I'D LET HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS AND KEEP MY COMMANDS TO A MINIMUM
EITHER WAY, I DECIDED TO BE MORE PATIENT WHEN DEALING WITH SLAMBO.
IN ANY CASE, THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL WAS TO GAIN SLAMBO'S "TRUST" FIRST.

ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
ONE NIGHT, I WOKE UP TO SLAMBO HAVING A NIGHTMARE
MEE EEP
MEE EEP
SFX. SHAKE SHAKE
I FOUND HIM TWISTING HIS BODY LEFT AND RIGHT, WHILE CRYING OUT LIKE HE WAS IN TERRIBLE PAIN
I SUPPOSE HE WAS HAVING A NASTY DREAM
UNABLE TO JUST SIT BY AND DO NOTHING, I LAID DOWN NEXT TO SLAMBO NORMALLY, HE DOESN'T EVEN LET ME TOUCH HIM, BUT WHEN I PATTED HIS HEAD GENTLY, HE SEEMED TO CALM DOWN A BIT

I WAS SO RELIEVED TO SEE IT
THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE RELAXED
AFTER ALL, IT SUCKS TO HAVE NIGHTMARES
I TOO HAD NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT AFTER SANTA ROSA WAS ATTACKED
THE VILLAGE WITH ITS PEOPLE AND BUILDINGS BURNING IN FRONT OF ME
THEIR EYES ASKING FOR HELP
THE GATE GUARD'S PITIFUL DEAD BODY
IT'S ALRIGHT. I'M SURE THESE SCARS WILL HEAL ONE DAY...
BUT... EVEN IF THEY DON'T HEAL, I'M SURE WE'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT THEM ONE DAY!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE IN IT.

Appendix:

Chorocters in chopter 18:

Boki

Nilom

Bunny girl

Slambo

Amour

Panther

Golems

Dara

Monsters in chopter 18:

Cactus Ball

Black Dragon

Spells in chopter 18:

- BeDragon (Puff!)

Locotions in chopter 18:

- Oracleberry (Fortuna)